

Message Text

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53/45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-14 MC-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /164 W

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O R 181537Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9295

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

DIA

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

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UNCLAS LISBON 1021

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TAGS: PINS, PO

SUBJ: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS OF ABORTIVE MILITARY
REBELLION IN PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: ABORTIVE MILITARY REBELLION STAGED MARCH 15 BY
200-300 SOLDIERS FROM NORTHERN MILITARY BARRACKS.
TROOPS, WHOSE AIMS UNDEFINED, BLOCKED FROM ADVANCEMENT ON
LISBON BY LOYALIST TROOPS, AND APPREHENDED WITHOUT
VIOLENCE ON RETURN TO BARRACKS. END SUMMARY
FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY EVENTS BASED ON LOCAL PRESS REPORTS
OF ABORTIVE MILITARY REBELLION WHICH OCCURRED IN PORTUGAL
MARCH 16 (COMMENT FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL):

1. AROUND 1:00 A.M., MARCH 16, THERE WERE RUMORS IN LISBON
OF TROOP MOVEMENTS IN CALDAS DA RAINHA, 100 KILOMETERS
NORTH OF LISBON. AT 2:00 A.M. EMERGENCY MINISTERIAL
MEETING, WHICH INCLUDED SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIALS, WAS
CALLED INTO SESSION IN LISBON.

2. EARLY THAT SAME MORNING AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF
MAJORS IN BARRACKS OF 5TH INFANTRY REGIMENT AT CALDAS
LOCKED UP THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER (WHO HAD ASSUMED
COMMAND PREVIOUS DAY), HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND, AND
THREE MAJORS. SOME 200-300 OFFICERS AND MEN IN 18
TRUCKS THEN HEADED TOWARDS SANTAREM, SOME SIXTY KILO-
METERS AWAY, WHERE THEY ATTEMPTED AND FAILED TO ENLIST
SUPPORT OF CAVALRY SCHOOL.

3. AT 5:00 A.M. LISBON SECURITY FORCES PUT ON HIGHEST
STATE OF ALERT AND ARMED WITH MACHINE PISTOLS AND AUTOMATIC
RIFLES. ONE HOUR LATER GENERAL PAIVA BRANDAO, PORTUGAL'S
SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER, CONCENTRATED TANKS AND UNITS OF FIRST
ARTILLERY AND SEVENTH CAVALRY, AS WELL AS ELEMENTS
NATIONAL REPUBLICAN GUARD (GNR), NEAR LISBON END OF
NORTHERN SUPERHIGHWAY LINKING LISBON TO VILA FRANCA
DE XIRA AND SANTAREM ALSO BLOCKED BY NAVY UNITS.

4. FROM 7 TO 9 A.M. NORTHERN SUPERHIGHWAY CLOSED
TO TRAFFIC AT LISBON END AS REBEL TROOPS, HAVING FAILED ENLIST
SUPPORT IN SANTAREM, PROCEEDED ALONG SUPERHIGHWAY
TOWARDS ALVERCA (SITE OF AIRBASE) ABOUT 25 KILO-
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METERS FROM LISBON.

5. REBELS, AFTER PASSING BY ALVERCA, SAW ROAD AHEAD BLOCKED
BY CIVILIAN CARS AS WELL AS FORCES GNR AND MILITARY FORCES FROM
LISBON. REBEL COLUMN TURNED BACK AT THIS POINT TOWARDS CALDAS
DA RAINHA. NO VIOLENCE REPORTED IN ENCOUNTER. AT 9:00
A.M. TRAFFIC FLOW RESUMED ON SUPERHIGHWAY.

6. BY MID-MORNING REBEL UNITS BACK IN BARRACKS IN CALDAS DA RAINHA. SHORTLY THEREAFTER LOYALIST TROOPS WITH BAZOOKAS AND ARTILLERY UNDER BRIG. GEN., SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF NEARBY TOMAR MILITARY REGION, SURROUNDED REBEL BARRACKS. TROOPS OF 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (LEIRIA), 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (TOMAR), CAVALRY SCHOOL (SANTAREM), AND FIRST HEAVY ARTILLERY (SACAVEM), AS WELL AS ELEMENTS OF MOTORIZED PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE (OEIRAS) AND DGS TOOK PART IN SURROUNDING CALDAS BARRACKS.

7. REBELS REPORTEDLY REFUSED AT FIRST TO GIVE UP, BUT AT 2:00 P.M. AGREED SURRENDER TO CALDAS COMMANDER WHOM THEY HAD PRISONER. AFTER BICKERING AND ULTIMATUM, AT 4:00 P.M. SURRENDER AND IDENTIFICATION REBELS TOOK PLACE.

8. AT 8:30 P.M. SIEGE CALDAS BARRACKS LIFTED. ABOUT THIS TIME ONE MILITARY BUS LEFT BARRACKS WITH A NUMBER OF PRISONERS FOR UNDISCLOSED DESTINATION.

9. STATE ALERT REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR THREE MILITARY SERVICES, AND LISBON IS CALM.
SCOTT

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